

For any given R (resistance of the line) the currents can be increased by selecting a dynamo-electric machine with the right internal resistance.

The advantages of the method appeared to me sufficiently great to justify a practical trial :—

Experiment, October 11, 1879. With a Siemens's dynamo-electric machine (medium size) I produced a powerful electric light; and between the poles of the dynamo-electric machine I connected up four artificial lines, each of 10,000 units resistance, with relays ranging between 500 to 1000 units. These four parallel circuits worked very well, singly and simultaneously. No variation of the electric light during telegraphing could be noticed, even when the line resistance was reduced to 1000 units. Further, the resistance of one line was increased to 20,000, and the signalling currents were still sufficiently strong (1·6 milli-oerstedts).

Experiment, October 14, 1879. Same as above; but a branch current was conveyed by the store-yard line (from the store-yard where the dynamo-electric machine with its electric light was put up) to Calcutta signalling-office (4 miles), and one of the Agra lines (850 miles in length) worked by this current.

The sent current, measured at Calcutta, was 9·6 milli-oerstedts; the received current, measured at Agra, 1·85. The great loss was due to the exceedingly low insulation of the line near Calcutta. It is now the breaking up of the monsoons, when the climate in lower Bengal represents almost a hot vapour bath.

Several messages were sent to Agra, but no variation in the electric light could be observed.

II.—*On the Occurrence of the Musk-Deer in Tibet.*

By R. LYDEKKER, B. A.

(Received November 17th, 1879.)

Some degree of doubt seems, hitherto, to have prevailed among naturalists whether the Musk-Deer (*Moschus*) occurs on the Tibetan plateau, or whether it is confined to the wooded districts of the Alpine Himalaya. Thus in a paper contributed by Mr. W. T. Blanford to the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London,'* the author says that he has grave doubts whether the Musk-Deer occurs anywhere on the Tibetan plateau. In a paper published by myself in the Society's Journal,† I mentioned that, from having seen skins in Ladák, as well as from the fact of the Ladákis

* 1867, p. 634.

† 1877, Pt. II, pp. 287-8.

having a name for the animal, I was of opinion that the Musk-Deer must occur somewhere in Tibet, though I had at that time no positive proofs to offer. Lately, however, I have obtained such evidence as seems to leave no doubt that this animal should be reckoned among the fauna of Tibet.

Firstly, it will, I think, be generally admitted that the musk-pods of the Musk-Deer are an important article of export from Tibet to India.* Although this affords *primâ facie* evidence that the Musk-Deer occurs in Tibet, yet it might be objected that this musk was first taken from China to Tibet, and thence exported through Nepál or Ladák to India; I, therefore, now proceed to bring forward the more direct proofs of the occurrence of the animal in Tibet proper.

The earliest evidence which I have to notice, is that of the great traveller Marco Polo.† That writer mentions the occurrence of the Musk-Deer at a place which he calls Ergiul, which Colonel Yule locates to the north of Tibet, and south of the great Gobi desert, in latitude 40°. From Marco Polo's description, there can be no doubt of the identity of the animal referred to with the Musk-Deer, though he commits the error of mentioning a pair of lower as well as upper tusks. Again, the same traveller‡ mentions the occurrence of the same animal in eastern Tibet, probably somewhere near the longitude of Lhása, and also that the Tibetans call the animal Gureri.

A later traveller, Mr. Bogle, the envoy of Warren Hastings, describes§ most circumstantially the hunting and capture of a Musk-Deer (or, as he calls it, Musk-Goat) at Rinjaitzay, which is situated north of the Tsánpú river near Shigátze in Tibet. Mr. Bogle describes the animal as being hornless, coated with stiff hair, and with tusks depending from the upper jaw of the male: he also mentions that the Tibetan Musk-Deer is of a lighter colour than the Musk-Deer of Bhútán. This description leaves no possible doubt as to the animal referred to.

General Cunningham|| mentions that the Musk-Deer (known to the Ladákis as Lá) is found in Tibet as well as in Kashmir.

During the past summer, I met in Lahúl with a Tibetan who had formerly occupied a high official position at Lhása, and who informed me,

* Markham, 'Tibet.' Int. p. cxxiii, p. 197.

Hodgson 'Trade of Nepál.'

Cunningham. 'Ladák,' p. 242.

† Yule's 'Marco Polo,' Vol. I, p. 267.

‡ Yule, loc. cit., Vol. II, p. 37.

§ Markham, loc. cit., p. 114.

|| Loc. cit., p. 202.

that the Musk-Deer was of common occurrence on the Tsánpú river in the neighbourhood of Lhása.

Mr. W. H. Johnson, the Governor of Ladák, informs me that the Musk-Deer is found in the country below and to the east of Lhása, along the course of the Tsánpú river. The musk brought from this district, Mr. Johnson says, has wrongly acquired the name of Khoten musk; this seems to have originated from the fact that when Khoten was a large Buddhist city, and important trading place, the musk was carried there from Lhása, and thence to India. Mr. Johnson also observes that the Musk-Deer occurs only where the birch tree grows.

The whole of this evidence taken together appears to me to afford abundant evidence as to the occurrence of a species of *Moschus* in Tibet, though I have no means of knowing whether it be the same as *M. moschiferus*. The Musk-Deer is of common occurrence in Bhútán, and it appears to me to be probable that it extends north of that district in most of the open countries up to Tibet, and thence across, or round, the Gobi desert into Siberia.

The occurrence of the Musk-Deer far in on the Tibet plateau is a fact of considerable importance, as it is the only instance of any of the large mammals of the forest clad Alpine Himalaya extending its range into the dry and desert regions to the north.

In my former paper, quoted above, I thought it probable that the Musk-Deer occurred in Ladák; this, however, I now find is not the case; I can find no evidence of the animal occurring anywhere in the upper Indus valley.

III.—*Note on some Ladák Mammals.*—By R. LYDEKKER, B. A.

Otter.—In his report on the Mammalia of the second Yarkand Mission* (p. 32), Mr. W. T. Blanford mentions that the late Dr. Stoliczka, in his notes, referred to the occurrence of a small species of otter (*Lutra*) in the Indus at Leh, but was unable to procure a specimen.

During the past summer I purchased at Leh a flat skin of an otter, said to have been obtained from the Indus at Shushot, near Leh. This skin is of very dark colour superiorly, and the length of the body-part is about 30 inches; the tips of the hairs are paler. Unfortunately, neither the skull nor the claws remain in my specimen, so that specific determination is quite impossible. The skin, however, seems to be very like that of the European

* 'Scientific Results of the Second Yarkand Expedition,' Mammalia, by W. T. Blanford. Calcutta, 1879.